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IHSA 037-81

WORKING PAPER

2 November 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, Technical and Scientific
Facilities Working Group

FROM:

Chairman

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SUBJECT: Working Group Information

1. Background

As you are aware, the IHSA has requested your participation in a 2-3 week effort to help them identify the direction the Agency should pursue in the areas of Technical and Scientific Facilities that will be required in the '85-'89 timeframe.

The IHSA has been directed to develop a strategic plan for the Agency's Information Handling systems by the end of August 1982. To accomplish this task within the time constraints, they have devised a four phase approach. In the first phase, the current one, a series of user oriented working groups will discuss and clarify the goals or objectives of Information Handling from their perspectives. The second phase will require other working groups consisting primarily of IH providers to address how the goals identified in the first phase may be implemented within technical, budgetary and other resource realities. The last two phases are concerned with preparing and coordinating the draft and final versions of the Strategic Plan. A schedule for the Strategic Plan development is attached for your information.

2. IHSA Point Papers

The IHSA has prepared three discussion papers that can be used as a basis for focusing our views and structure our product. In addition to the background information provided there are a number of specific questions which will require our

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response. Because of the limited amount of time within this phase you are requested to give as much thought as reasonably possible to these questions and to the formulation of goals prior to our gathering on 9 November. Any initial quantification of facilities required or documentation supporting specific contentions will be appreciated.

3. Some Guidelines

a. The time frame for goal implementation is 1985 through 1989.

b. Our focus should be on required facilities and goals, not on solutions or implementation methods.

c. The fundamental thrust of our pursuit is to ascertain (as specifically as possible) the technical and scientific capabilities we require for our efficient functioning during the target time period.

d. Recommend specific changes to existing systems/capabilities are not our concern.

e. It is not fruitful in this phase of the effort to pursue "general goodness" concerns, such as commonality and interoperability, because these are aspects of IHS implementation planning. They will be major concerns at that time.

f. In addition to the questions and goals posed, any additional topics which you believe should be addressed in this area will be welcomed.

4. I look forward to an informative and productive association. If you have any questions or observations concerning this matter before our meeting on November 9th, please contact me

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Attachments:
As Stated

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